

## Small Medium and Micro Enterprises and Entrepreneurship Working Group Matrix

Highlighted cells indicate U.S. Action

Agenda Item		US Member	US ABAC position/action	USG Position if known or applicable	Other economy positions
2. Report on SMEWG Meeting in Brunei		Kevin Thieneman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ABAC USA should monitor.</li> </ul>		
3. ABAC Innovative Growth Initiative		Kevin Thieneman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ABAC USA supports innovative growth and feels it should continue to be included in ABAC's next generation trade issues input to APEC</li> </ul>		
a	Updates on study				
b	Sustainability of Business				
4. Online Transaction Platform for APEC		Kevin Thieneman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No paper available</li> <li>ABAC USA should monitor</li> </ul>		
5. STAR Database		Kevin Thieneman		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USG is supportive of policies that support SMEs</li> <li>The Obama Administration has been supportive of SMEs and passed the Small <i>Business</i> Jobs Act which improves access to finance for SME in 2010. It has recently updated the Jobs Act which extends benefits for varying terms (2011 or 2012)</li> </ul>	
6. Next Generation Tariff Database		Kevin Thieneman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kevin will present tariff database proposal</li> </ul>	USG is supportive and wants to have this as a deliverable for 2012	
7. Business Ethics for SMEs		Kevin Thieneman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a US Government and ABAC supported initiative. Paper has been circulated but no presentation is needed.</li> <li>ABAC USA is very supportive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USG is very supportive. The Hanoi principles for construction and the Mexico principles for bio-pharmaceuticals were finalized recently.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ABAC has been closely involved in the development of all three principles.</li> </ul>
8. Women in Business		Kevin Thieneman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ABAC USA is supportive of economic inclusion.</li> <li>ABAC USA should monitor</li> <li>No paper available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USG is very supportive. Women in the Economy Summit held during SOM III with Secretary Clinton.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chinese Taipei led initiative. ABAC is very supportive of economic inclusion, and the ABAC Women's forum is a concrete example of work being done to promote this.</li> </ul>

9. APEC Young Entrepreneurs Summit		<b>Kevin Thieneman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ABAC USA should monitor this</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malaysia is proponent of this initiative</li> </ul>
10. SMME Summits		<b>Kevin Thieneman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ABAC USA should monitor this</li> </ul>		
A	Proposed events for 2012		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ABAC USA should monitor this</li> </ul>		
B	APEC SME Summit Coordination Centre		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>China will update on the establishment of a coordination center for SME Summits in the ABAC China Secretariat. ABAC USA is supportive of this initiative.</li> </ul>		
11. Other business		<b>Kevin Thieneman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ABAC USA should monitor this</li> </ul>		
12. Closing Remarks		<b>Kevin Thieneman</b>			

**SME and Micro-enterprises (SMME) & Entrepreneurship Working Group**  
**Second ABAC Meeting for 2012, Kuala Lumpur**  
**Time: 08:00 – 10:00, Wednesday May 23, 2012**  
**AGENDA**

Agenda Item No.	Issue	Lead Economy/ Speaker	Doc. No.
1	Welcome and introductory remarks from Chair: 1.1 Approval of the minutes of the SMMEEWG meeting I 2012 in Hong Kong 1.2 Approval of ABAC II 2012 Agenda	ABAC Peru, Mr. Juan Francisco Raffo	SMMEEWG 32-012
2	Report on the 34th SMEWG meeting in Brunei Darussalam. 2.1 Presentation	ABAC China Mr. Xia Bing	SMMEEWG #
	<b>Policies Promoting the Creation of New Businesses and Business Models</b>		
3	ABAC Innovative Growth (IG) Initiative: 3.1 Updates on the study	ABAC Chinese Taipei Mr. Steven Lee	SMMEEWG #
	<b>Policies that Promote the Sustainability of Businesses</b>		
4	The Online Transaction Platform for APEC 4.1 Study proposal	ABAC China, Ms. Diane Wang	SMMEEWG #
5	STAR Database Project 5.1 Presentation	ABAC New Zealand, Invited Guest Speaker Mr. Tim Ault from the Australian Government	SMMEEWG #
6	Next Generation Interactive Tariff Database. 6.1 Presentation	ABAC USA Mr. Robert Fiddick	SMMEEWG #
7	Business Ethics for APEC SMEs 7.1 Written update	ABAC USA	SMMEEWG #
8	Women in Business 8.1 Update of activities in Kuala Lumpur	ABAC Chinese Taipei, Ms. Gaynor de Wit	SMMEEWG #
9	APEC Young Entrepreneurs' (YE) Summit 9.1 Update on the 2012 Summit	ABAC China, Ms. Diane Wang	SMMEEWG #
10	SME Summit: 10.1 Update on proposed events for 2012 10.2 APEC SME Summit Coordination Centre – Update on progress of establishing centre	ABAC Peru, Mr. Juan Francisco Raffo ABAC China, Ms Diane Wang	SMMEEWG # SMMEEWG #
10	<b>Any other business</b>		
11	Closing Remarks	ABAC Peru, Mr. Juan Francisco Raffo	

**SME and Micro-enterprises (SMME) & Entrepreneurship Working Group  
23 February 2010, Hong Kong, China**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

SMMEEWG Chair Juan Francisco Raffo welcomed the participants and announced he would be replacing Fauziah Talib as Chair of the working group. Then he introduced and welcomed the new co-Chairs of the group: Ms. Anna Buduls, ABAC Australia, and Mr. Tan Sri Radzi, ABAC Malaysia.

Chair: Mr. Juan Francisco Raffo (ABAC Peru)  
Lead Co-Chair: Mr. Paul Lee (ABAC Canada)  
Co-Chairs: Ms. Maxine Simmons (ABAC New Zealand)  
Ms. Anna Buduls (ABAC Australia)  
Mr. Tan Sri Radzi (ABAC Malaysia)

**Approval of the ABAC I 2012 Agenda**

***What was the issue?***

1. Mr. Juan Francisco Raffo (Chair, ABAC Peru) submitted the agenda of this meeting for approval and proposed a change in the Working Group Action Plan for 2012.

***What was discussed?***

Mr. Juan Francisco Raffo (Chair, ABAC Peru), proposed a change to the action plan, in order to connect the topics in the agenda with the internet. He suggested a focus on the basic needs of SMMEEs: market access, capacity building and other relevant issues such as access to financing.

There were no further comments on the agenda for this meeting.

***What was agreed/decided?***

ABAC Australia, ABAC Canada, ABAC China and ABAC Peru will work on this issue and present an updated proposal in the ABAC II, Kuala Lumpur meeting.

The agenda for this meeting was approved.

**Proposed guidelines for ABAC Surveys**

***What was the issue?***

2. Ms. Maxine Simmons (ABAC New Zealand) presented proposed guidelines for ABAC regular surveys of business views in the region.

***What was discussed?***

ABAC New Zealand made the following recommendations:

- That the frequency of ABAC surveys be restricted to no more than two in any given year.
- That proposals for surveys be approved at ABAC II and ABAC IV each year.
- That Working Group Chairs constitute a panel to review proposals for surveys and make recommendations to the Plenary concerning timing, content and design.
- That the panel have regard to best practice principles in regard to the design of ABAC surveys particularly in regard to purpose, relevance, simplicity and the use of web-based applications.
- That an appropriate technical expert be identified to present at ABAC II on the subject of survey design and analysis.

ABAC Korea requested some more flexibility because in some cases it might be necessary approve surveys more than twice a year.

ABAC Canada, Hong Kong and Brunei agreed that the key goal was to limit the amount of surveys and to have some clarity about what we are trying to achieve, because too often some surveys have been more useful for research than to help drive an agenda.

ABAC Singapore agreed it was necessary to limit the amount of surveys and noted that duplication of efforts should be avoided, as a lot of APEC organizations also send out surveys and it might be possible to integrate those surveys.

***What was agreed/decided?***

It was agreed to propose to the closing plenary to limit the number of surveys to no more than two in any given year, but leaving it up to the Chairs to decide if they are open to meeting to review surveys twice a year or more than twice a year. The rest of the recommendations were endorsed.

**ABAC Innovative Growth Initiative*****What was the issue?***

3. Mr. Steven Lee (ABAC Chinese Taipei) presented a proposal for further research on facilitating innovative growth across borders.

***What was discussed?***

ABAC Chinese Taipei proposes to undertake research to understand how to foster innovative growth for SMMEs internationally, in the following areas:

- Mechanism: Best mechanism to facilitate SMME innovation for growth.
  - International R&D and Innovation (RDI) strategy alliance.
  - International IP sharing mechanism with protection enforcement.
- Environment: The most conducive environment to foster SMME innovation.
  - International emerging industry clusters.
  - Cross-border human resource exchange. Best practices illustrated by case studies in detail.
- Policy recommendations derived from the above research.

ABAC Chinese Taipei presented the following research timeline:

- ABAC I: Propose research ideas.
- ABAC II: Deliver preliminary research results of policy mechanism.
- ABAC III: Deliver results of best practice analysis and provide policy recommendations.
- ABAC IV: Present full research report.

***What was agreed/decided?***

The proposal was endorsed.

Micro and Small Businesses Internationalization Project

***What was the issue?***

4. Mr. Enrique Gubbins presented the progress of the project: “Peruvian SMEs to the World”.

***What was discussed?***

ABAC Peru highlighted the importance of technology in lowering transaction costs for SMEs to achieve the main objectives of the project:

- Help Peruvian SMEs find growth opportunities in local a foreign markets.
- Develop a model to help SMEs access new markets through e-commerce.
- Give SMEs the opportunity to take advantage of Peru’s multiple FTAs and APEC partners.

ABAC Peru noted more than 7000 Peruvian SMEs had joined the project in the last 18 months, more than 1250 participants had received training in 85 workshops and more than 8000 participants had attended 50 seminars organized especially for SMEs.

Mr. Paul Lee (Lead co-Chair, ABAC Canada) commended ABAC Peru on an initiative that really made a difference on helping SMEs access markets.

Mr. Juan Francisco (Chair, ABAC Peru) noted it would be important to track the amount the actual amount of transactions that are achieved through this project.

Ms. Diane Wang (ABAC China) highlighted the importance of e-commerce for SMEs and recommended a next step for this initiative be to move into online transactions.

Ms. Haslina Talib proposed ABAC Peru presented the project in the next ABAC Women Forum meeting, given the importance of the topic of market access to the group.

***What was agreed/decided?***

The initiative was noted as a good example on how to help SMEs access international markets.

Private sector collaboration for SMME capacity building

***What was the issue?***

5. Mr. Joon Ho Lee (ABAC Korea) presented the results of the preliminary survey and a proposal for a study on enhancing the collaboration between Large Enterprises and SMEs.

***What was discussed?***

ABAC Korea presented the results of their preliminary survey, based on the response of nine institutes on eight economies.

ABAC Korea presented a proposal to study the status and effects of LE-SME collaboration and policies to promote such cooperation in each APEC member economy.

The research project has the following objectives:

- Identify possibilities for promoting SME's competitiveness through cooperation with Large Enterprises.
- Compare LE-SME cooperation policies among economies, develop best practices of such cooperation, and provide policy implications for stronger government involvement.

Ms. Anna Buduls (Co-Chair, ABAC Australia) and Mr. Paul Lee (Lead co-Chair, ABAC Canada) expressed their concern for the low amount of responses the preliminary survey received, especially considering the limited ABAC budget for this kind of projects. Also, based on the preliminary survey, the premises of the project may not apply to both developed and developing economies.

Haslina Talib (ABAC Brunei Darussalam) expressed her doubts on the need for a survey as opposed to taking more practical steps.

***What was agreed/decided?***

It was decided further discussion was necessary before a decision could be made.

ABAC Korea expressed its disappointment and announced they would make an effort to make sure the project moves forward.

#### Business Ethics

***What was the issue?***

6. Update on Business Ethics for APEC SMEs

***What was discussed?***

ABAC USA presented a written update on Business Ethics for APEC SMEs.

***What was agreed/decided?***

On going support for the implementation project was endorsed.

#### Women in Business

***What was the issue?***

7. Update on the activities of the ABAC Women Forum the way forward for 2012.

***What was discussed?***

Gaynor de Wit (ABAC Chinese Taipei) presented a recap on the ABAC Women's Forum progress and achievements in 2011 and outlined plans for 2012 and beyond.

***What was agreed/decided?***

The proposal was endorsed.

#### APEC Young Entrepreneurs Summit

***What was the issue?***

8. Report on the outcome of the 2011 event held in KL, Malaysia, and proposed events for 2011.

***What was discussed?***

Mr. Tan Sri Radzi presented the outcomes and recommendations of the APEC Young Entrepreneurs Summit that was held in Kuala Lumpur in October 18-20, 2011.



Ms. Diane Wang provided an update on the progress of the next Young Entrepreneurs Summit that will be held on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Beijing, China.

***What was agreed/decided?***

For information.

APEC SME Summits

***What was the issue?***

8. Update on the SME Symposium held in Hawaii, USA; proposed events for 2012 and an update on the progress of the APEC SME Summit Coordination Centre.

***What was discussed?***

Mr. Anthony Nightingale presented the outcome of the SME Summit held in Hong Kong, focused on the topic of entrepreneurship.

Mr. Vincent Lo (ABAC Hong Kong) and Mr. Juan Francisco Raffo (Chair, ABAC Peru) highlighted the importance of having highly successful entrepreneurs as speakers because they serve as inspirational figures for young people.

ABAC USA presented a written recap on the SME Symposium held in Honolulu, Hawaii on November 10, 2011.

Mr. Enrique Gubbins (ABAC Peru) announced the APEC SME Summit would be held in Lima, Peru, on August 23, 2012, and it would focus on the internationalization of SMEs. The goal is to surpass the success of the SME Summit held last year with more than 1000 participants in Lima and more following the event through a live broadcast.

Ms. Diane Wang (ABAC China) reported on the progress of the APEC SME Summit Coordination Centre and called for more assistance from countries that have previously organized SME Summits to gather information to complete the website of the Centre: [www.apecsmesummit.org](http://www.apecsmesummit.org)

Ms. Diane Wang (ABAC China) announced the Centre plans to organize two events in 2012:

- APEC Young Entrepreneurs Summit (June 5-6, Beijing).
- APEC SME Summit (Q4, venue to be announced)

***What was agreed/decided?***

For information.

*The meeting was adjourned at 15:15.*

Document: SMMEEWG 32-016  
Draft: **FIRST**  
Source: ABAC New Zealand  
Date: 15 May 2012  
Meeting: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### Meeting Document Summary Sheet Template

<b>Document Title:</b>  APEC STAR Database presentation
<b>Purpose:</b>  For information
<b>Issue:</b>  Mr. Tim Ault, from the APEC Branch of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, will give a brief presentation on the APEC Services Trade Access Requirements (STAR) database.
<b>Background:</b>  The STAR Database is a business-friendly, on-line tool to help services providers from APEC economies take advantage of new export opportunities. By gathering information on services market access into a single, easily accessible knowledge bank, the STAR database will increase business awareness of the regulatory requirements to trade  The STAR Database is an Australian initiative, co-sponsored by Chile, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines and the United States.
<b>Proposal /Recommendations:</b>  For information
<b>Decision Points:</b>



## What is the STAR Database?

- A business-friendly, on-line tool to help services providers from APEC economies take advantage of new export opportunities.
- Provides information on market access regulatory requirements across a range of services sectors.
- Single, easily-accessible destination for information.
- Plain English – written for business not bureaucrats.

APEC Services Trade Access Requirements (STAR) Database

## Why do we need it?



- Because SMEs lack time and resources to conduct the necessary research.
- To make it easier for services providers to trade by increasing the transparency of rules and regulations affecting market access
- To centralise widely dispersed information in a single repository, and present it in a user-friendly way.

APEC Services Trade Access Requirements (STAR) Database



<http://www.servicetradeforum.org>



### QUICK START

1. Economy:
  2. Service Industry:
- 

### NEWS & EVENTS

**11.03.2012**  
As the effects of the 2007 Global Financial Crisis spread, unsustainable pricing bubbles burst in sectors such as housing and banking, confidence in existing systems fell and an increase in cautionary measures swiftly took hold. As a result, foreign direct investment (FDI) flows in the Asia-Pacific region also fell.

**22.11.2011**

### INTERESTED IN EXPANDING YOUR SERVICE BUSINESS INTO NEW GLOBAL MARKETS?

This site will make it easier to export services globally. The database helps to identify the requirements to trade with and invest in other APEC economies. The forum has been designed to exchange information with other services providers and businesses.

It currently focuses on Australia, Chile, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and the United States. It covers the Financial Services (banking and insurance), Mining and Energy, Professional Services (legal, accounting, architecture and engineering), Telecommunications, Transportation & Logistics service sectors.

The STAR database will help you expand your global reach.

### VISIT OUR FORUM

For the latest discussion, please make sure to visit our forum.



### APEC MEMBER ECONOMIES



APEC Services Trade Access Requirements (STAR) Database



<http://www.servicetradeforum.org>

**APEC**  
Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

**APEC SERVICES TRADE ACCESS REQUIREMENTS (STAR) DATABASE**

Accessibility View search...

**QUICK START**

1. Economy:  
Select Economy  
Australia  
Chile  
Indonesia  
Japan  
Korea  
Malaysia  
New Zealand  
Philippines  
Singapore  
Thailand  
United States

2. Service Industry:  
Select Service Industry  
Financial Services  
Mining & Energy Services  
Professional Services  
Telecommunications  
Transportation & Logistics Services

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**APEC MEMBER ECONOMIES**

Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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**APEC**  
Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

**APEC SERVICES TRADE ACCESS REQUIREMENTS (STAR) DATABASE**

Accessibility View search...

**QUICK START**

1. Economy:  
Australia

2. Service Industry:  
Select Service Industry  
Financial Services  
Mining & Energy Services  
Professional Services  
Telecommunications  
Transportation & Logistics Services

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**APEC MEMBER ECONOMIES**

Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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**APEC**  
Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

**APEC SERVICES TRADE ACCESS  
REQUIREMENTS (STAR) DATABASE**

**QUICK START**

1. Economy:  
Australia

2. Service Industry:  
Financial Services

Search

**AUSTRALIA  
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**3. SEARCH THE REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

HOW ARE YOU OPERATING?  
Select Delivery...

OR

WHICH REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS DO YOU FACE?  
Select Category...

General Requirements

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

- Free Trade Agreements
- Mutual Recognition and Bilateral Agreements
- Recent Policy Initiatives
- Contacts and References

APEC Services Trade Access Requirements (STAR) Database

Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

<http://www.servicetradeforum.org>

**APEC**  
Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

**APEC SERVICES TRADE ACCESS  
REQUIREMENTS (STAR) DATABASE**

**QUICK START**

1. Economy:  
Australia

2. Service Industry:  
Financial Services

Search

**AUSTRALIA  
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**3. SEARCH THE REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

HOW ARE YOU OPERATING?  
Select Delivery...  
Firm delivering services in the local market  
Firm/business persons delivering services across borders  
Firm/business persons delivering services across borders and also residing in the host country

WHICH REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS DO YOU FACE?  
Select Category...

General Requirements

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

- Free Trade Agreements
- Mutual Recognition and Bilateral Agreements
- Recent Policy Initiatives
- Contacts and References

APEC Services Trade Access Requirements (STAR) Database

Australian Government  
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APEC  
Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

APEC  
Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

## APEC SERVICES TRADE ACCESS REQUIREMENTS (STAR) DATABASE

QUICK START

1. Economy:  
Australia

2. Service Industry:  
Financial Services

Search

AUSTRALIA  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

3. SEARCH THE REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

HOW ARE YOU OPERATING?  
Business persons delivering services, temporarily or as a resident

Please select from the following options..

Entry & visa requirements  
Nationality requirements (Insurance)  
Qualification recognition  
Registration requirements (Insurance)  
Registration requirements  
Restrictions on duration of stay

General Requirements

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Free Trade Agreements
- Mutual Recognition and Bilateral Agreements

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Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

APEC  
Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

## REQUIREMENTS (STAR) DATABASE

QUICK START

1. Economy:  
Australia

2. Service Industry:  
Financial Services

Search

AUSTRALIA  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

3. SEARCH THE REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

HOW ARE YOU OPERATING?  
Business persons delivering services, temporarily or as a resident

Please select from the following options..

Entry & visa requirements  
Nationality requirements (Insurance)  
Qualification recognition  
Registration requirements (Insurance)  
Registration requirements  
Restrictions on duration of stay

Registration requirements

In 2007, amendments were made to the Insurance Act requiring all insurance providers to be registered with Australian Prudential Regulation Authority. However, the Government also passed the Financial Sector Legislation Amendment (Discretionary Mutual Funds and Direct offshore Foreign Insurers) Act 2007 which makes limited exemptions for insurance providers where domestic insurance providers are unable to provide certain insurance.

General Requirements

APEC Services Trade Access Requirements (STAR) Database

Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



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APEC  
Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

Services Trade - Australia

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General Requirements

**Registration Requirements**  
Companies wishing to operate in Australia must register as a foreign company with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission. Requirements include details of listed directors, appointed local agents, maintenance of a local office, and details of any charges, mortgages or similar security over any of the company's property located in Australia.

Requirements also exist relating to residency of directors. Requirements vary according to type of company (public, proprietary) but generally include at least one if not two directors of Australian residence.

**Government procurement policy**  
Australia is not a party to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA). Generally, the Australian government does not discriminate against foreign owned corporations in terms of government procurement under the Mandatory Procurement Procedures in place. However, Mandatory Procurement Procedures of the Australian Government do not apply to the acquisition of fiscal agency or depository services, liquidation and management services for regulated financial institutions, and sale and distribution services for government debt.

**Limits on foreign investment or capital**  
Australia's general foreign investment laws and policies apply, in particular the *Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975* (FATA), and the *Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Regulations 1989*. There are also sector specific requirements.

Under foreign investment rules, the Federal Treasurer has the power to scrutinise and approve or reject foreign investment proposals on advice from the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB). Only proposals shown to be contrary to the national interest are rejected. Screening is a formality for most investment proposals and the

APEC Services Trade Access Requirements (STAR) Database

Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## Development of the STAR Database

APEC  
Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

- Phase 1 – Australian-funded, five economies, completed 2010
  - five services sectors: financial services, mining and energy services, professional services, telecommunications, transport and logistics.
- Phase 2 – Jointly funded by Australia and APEC, expanded to cover 11 APEC economies, completed 2011
  - Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States
- Phase 3 – Jointly funded by Australia and APEC, covers *all* APEC economies, *three* new services sectors, *completion end 2012*
  - education services, distribution services, computer and related technology services.

APEC Services Trade Access Requirements (STAR) Database

Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



## APEC Group on Services (GOS)



- GOS is the main working group tackling services trade-related issues in APEC
- To date most of the GOS's work can be categorised as:
  - exploring the benefits of services trade and the development of open, competitive services markets
  - identifying barriers (legal, regulatory, behind-the-border) to services trade (e.g. STAR Database).
- Increasing appetite among APEC economies to examine regulations affecting services trade.
  - how can regulations be improved to lessen the burden on business while still performing legitimate policy objectives?

APEC Services Trade Access Requirements (STAR) Database



## STAR Database – capacity building



- Capacity-building workshops examining best-practice regulation of services sectors.
- Planned series of Australian-funded workshops targeting each services sector covered by the STAR Database
  - attended by policy-makers and regulators, industry and academia
  - focus on “what works and what doesn’t”
  - compendium of best practice regulation.
- First Australian workshop – Financial Services
  - October/November in Singapore
  - similar workshops proposed by China (logistics services) and Indonesia (retail services).

APEC Services Trade Access Requirements (STAR) Database



## Next steps



- Continue sectoral expansion of the STAR Database
- Publicise existence of the Database to business
  - brochures
  - presentation available on-line at:  
<http://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/trade/apec-star-database.html>
- Private sponsorship?

<b>Document Title:</b>
The Next-Generation Interactive APEC Tariff Database
<b>Purpose:</b> For discussion
<b>Issue:</b> Customs transparency to help SMEs access trading markets in Asia Pacific
<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>Customs transparency is regularly cited by the private sector as a major impediment to doing business in the APEC region. The lack of readily available information on applied tariff rates, rules of origin and the details regarding the more than 40 regional, bilateral and multilateral trade agreements make it difficult for companies to take full advantage of regional trade liberalization. This lack of transparency creates a significant barrier to trade and investment in the region for companies of all sizes. Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) often forgo trade benefits altogether and are further disadvantaged compared to their larger counterparts.</p> <p>The APEC tariff database will assist APEC SMEs by providing them with unprecedented access to tariff information. Existing databases from the World Trade Organization (WTO), World Customs Organization (WCO), and Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) have helped spotlight the issue of customs transparency, but none provide a comprehensive level of information that allow SMEs to capitalize on free trade agreements and <i>preferential rules of origin (ROO)</i>.</p> <p>Businesses in the APEC region have identified the need to build on this important progress by creating a robust, fully searchable, trade database based on Harmonized System classification numbers that includes the following commercially-relevant trade information for each APEC member economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>MFN tariff rates</i> for all products</li> <li>• <i>Preferential duty rates</i> that the economy applies on products entering from other APEC members under preferential trade agreements.</li> <li>• Detailed information on <i>preferential rules of origin</i> linked to tariff codes</li> <li>• Scheduled <i>future tariffs and phase outs</i> negotiated under PTAs</li> </ul> <p>The next-generation Asia-Pacific Interactive Tariff Database is intended to be a <b>one-stop shop</b> for exporters and importers within APEC <b>to obtain current and future tariff information</b> for the movement of their goods between APEC economies. The launch of the next-generation Asia-Pacific Interactive Tariff Database will ensure that tariff and preference information is <b>timely, current and commercially-relevant</b>. The database will provide companies with the capability to extract information for planning purposes and compare sourcing alternatives.</p>
<p><b>Proposal /Recommendations:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ABAC should support the development of the Interactive APEC Tariff Database. ABAC should include specific reference to the development of an interactive tariff database in: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ABAC's letter to SME Ministers (to be finalized at ABAC III).</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. ABAC Member economies should convey their support for the Database to their respective APEC Senior Officials.</li> </ol>
<b>Decision Points:</b> Endorse Recommendations

## **Background**

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Customs transparency is regularly cited by the private sector as a major impediment to doing business in the APEC region. The lack of readily available information on applied tariff rates, rules of origin and the details regarding the more than 40 regional, bilateral and multilateral trade agreements make it difficult for companies to take full advantage of regional trade liberalization. This lack of transparency creates a significant barrier to trade and investment in the region for companies of all sizes. Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) often forgo trade benefits altogether and are further disadvantaged compared to their larger counterparts.

### ***APEC's Past Initiatives on Improved Transparency: APEC's "WebTR" Portal Welcomed by Importers and Exporters***

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The twenty-one member economies of APEC have agreed to make their customs and tariff information transparent and available to the public through a web-based format called "WebTR" (tariffs and rules of origin). WebTR is now available on the APEC website with links to national Customs Services' websites where tariff, preferential trade agreements (PTA) and rules of origin information are published. The business community applauds the launch of the portal as it greatly improves transparency and helps businesses in the region locate important tariff information.

### ***ABAC's Involvement***

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ABAC acknowledged the need for more transparency in tariffs and rules of origin in 2009. It noted the lack of publicly available information on tariffs and preferential rules of origin within APEC, and that companies face difficulties when trying to take advantage of regional free trade agreements and other preferential agreements negotiated by governments.

In 2010, ABAC USA briefed the Council on efforts to pursue development of the next-generation Interactive Asia-Pacific Tariff Database to ensure commercially-relevant data is available immediately, easy to use, comprehensive and updated regularly. ABAC USA noted that businesses are exploring the possibility of developing a pilot database to test the concept and assess business interest, and that U.S. trade consultants have put together a framework that outlines the potential functionality of a next-generation APEC tariff database..

In May 2011, the APEC Business Advisory Committee (ABAC) identified to SME ministers the difficulty for small, micro and medium sized firms (SMMEs) to take advantage of the more than 45 preferential trade agreements currently in place among APEC members. Furthermore, the ABAC noted that "improving the understanding of how to utilize free trade agreements (FTAs) will make it easier for SMMEs to take advantage of preferential tariff rates and other benefits of FTAs. By making it easier to utilize FTAs, SMMEs will lower their overall cost of doing business in other economies and be more competitive." Finally, the ABAC recommended that:

*"Transparency and access to FTA tariffs and rules of origin should be improved through the enhancement of APEC's WebTR initiative to develop a fully searchable online database of tariffs and rules of origin for FTAs between APEC economies."*

### ***Enhanced Commercial Relevance: Consolidating Information into a Searchable Database***

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Businesses in the APEC region have identified the need to build on this important progress by creating a robust, fully searchable, trade database based on Harmonized System classification numbers that includes the following commercially-relevant trade information for each APEC member economy:

- *MFN tariff rates* for all products
- *Preferential duty rates* that the economy applies on products entering from other APEC members under preferential trade agreements.

- Detailed information on *preferential rules of origin* linked to tariff codes
- Scheduled *future tariffs and phase outs* negotiated under PTAs

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### ***The Solution: A Supplementary Interactive Tariff Database for the Region***

The next-generation Asia-Pacific Interactive Tariff Database is intended to be a **one-stop shop** for exporters and importers within APEC to **obtain current and future tariff information** for the movement of their goods between APEC economies. The launch of the next-generation Asia-Pacific Interactive Tariff Database will ensure that tariff and preference information is **timely, current and commercially-relevant**. The database will provide companies with the capability to extract information for planning purposes and compare sourcing alternatives.

Specifically:

- *This information is available now for business to utilize* since this database will not require APEC economy governments to provide updates to the APEC Secretariat. The content is obtained and consolidated into a common system by a global commerce management firm directly. As a result, the database provides companies with the most up-to-date information.
- The database can also *act as a platform for inclusion of important non-tariff information* including export controls, other taxes, standards, import requirements, import documents not yet included in the WebTR initiative.
- The next-generation database *complements the governments' APEC transparency initiative in a commercially relevant way* by providing data in table formats for easy analysis, reducing the need to navigate, read and interpret complicated preferential trade agreements and by allowing the data to be more easily integrated into companies' internal logistical, supply chain and sourcing systems.

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### ***Pilot Phase: Six-month Pilot Completed***

A successful pilot of the Asia-Pacific Interactive Tariff Database was completed in July 2011. Industry representatives from multinational firms each contributed to support development of the database and to participate in the pilot phase. The pilot participants tested the functionality and content of the database and provided recommendations for functional and content improvements.









































The pilot participants included industry associations: The National Center for APEC (NCAPEC) and the U.S. Council for International Business (USCIB); SME consultants: Mercor Consulting and TradeMoves; and multinational companies: Levi Strauss, Pfizer, DHL and 3M.

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### ***How it Stacks Up: Comparison of Scope and Functionality for Existing Tariff Databases***


The APEC tariff database will assist APEC SMEs by providing them with unprecedented access to tariff information. Existing databases from the World Trade Organization (WTO), World Customs Organization (WCO), and Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) have helped spotlight the issue of customs transparency, but none provide a comprehensive level of information that allow SMEs to capitalize on free trade agreements and preferential rules of origin (ROO). The Database would be targeted to companies for use in supporting commercial transactions across borders and strategic planning. Specifically, the Database would help promote the internationalization and growth of SMEs by helping them navigate future tariff reductions via simple phase-out tables.

COMPARISON OF SCOPE and FUNCTIONALITY for EXISTING TARIFF DATABASES

SCOPE	Asia Pacific Tariff Database		World Trade Organization's Integrated Tariff Database <i>tariffdata.wto.org/default.aspx</i>		World Customs Organization's Customs Database <i>www.wcoomd.org/tariff/</i>		Inter-American Development Bank's Trade Database (INTradeBID) <i>www.iadb.org/int/intradebid/Home.aspx</i>	
Database Overview	Interactive, fully searchable APEC-wide database of accurate, up-to-date customs information to support commercial transactions and strategic planning for SMEs. Information includes MFN tariffs, preferential tariffs for more than xx FTAs in the region, import taxes, rules of origin and certificates of origin.		The WTO's ITDB contains information on Most Favored Nation (MFN) applied and bound tariffs at the Harmonized System (HS) sub-heading level for all WTO Members. It provides limited data on non-MFN applied tariff regimes which a country grants to its export partners		WCO's portal that links to national customs websites.		INTradeBID provides limited information related to the preferential access of goods, such as tariffs, rules of origin, sanitary measures, quotas, and other special regimes primarily for the Americas but includes some other APEC members.	
HS Codes beyond the 6-digit subheading		Full tariff codes and descriptions provided for each national tariff schedule.		Information is to the 6-digit which prevents specificity.		No ability to search by tariff code.		6-digit only.
Current MFN / NTR Tariffs		Monitored consistently and updated on a periodic basis.		Available tariffs vary by country and range from years 2009-2011.		Only provides links to Customs websites and not all countries are included		No MFN/NTR rates included.
Current preferential tariffs for all APEC countries		More than xx% of existing FTAs between APEC members is included. FTA work remains ongoing. Commitment to achieve 100% coverage for APEC.		Limited. Most are not included.		No preferential rates included.		Some. Scope is primarily the Americas. Includes some APEC members' tariff reductions in FTAs with countries of the Americas.
Future preferential tariff rates via reduction schedules.		Staged reductions through final reduction provided.						
WTO bound tariffs		Not required to support commercial transactions.						
Quotas		Not currently included but expected in future updates of scope and capability.						Limited information on quotas.
Preferential rules of origin (ROO)		ROO linked by tariff code.						Yes, but ROO are not linked to specific tariff code.
Certificates of origin (COO)		Examples of relevant COOs included.						
Other import taxes such as VAT		Important to understand full landed cost.						
Link to FTA texts		Not currently included (with the exception of rules of origin).		Must access via secondary WTO database (rtais.wto.org)				

KEY	Symbol			
	Definition	Yes. No significant limitations.	No. Information or functionality does not exist.	Limited in either scope or functionality.

FUNCTIONALITY	Asia Pacific Tariff Database		WTO's Integrated Tariff Database		WCO's Customs Database		Inter-American Development Bank's Rules of Origin Database	
Easy to use interface		Numerous, easy ways to search for tariffs based on tariff code.				Does not take you direct to tariff rates.		Limited. Must pre-select FTAs.
Commercially-relevant output		Targeted to companies for use in supporting commercial transactions across borders and strategic planning.						Limited. Tariff info targeted to trade negotiators for use in comparing reductions in the region. ROO targeted to trade negotiators for use in harmonizing ROO in the region and to companies to simplify understanding of origin criteria
Searchable		Numerous, easy ways to search for tariffs based on tariff code.				Only links to customs webpages and not directly to tariffs.		Can search for tariff reductions, rules of origin and quotas.
Comparison tables for tariff rates		Allows for comparison of tariffs in one table. Helpful for evaluating different potential sourcing scenarios.						Only allows for comparison of rules of origin.
Tariff rates updated routinely		Routine monitoring and updates provided including list of affected tariff rates.		Based on reporting from WTO members which can be delayed.				
No-cost access for SMEs								
Funding sources	Commercially developed database. Funding via public-private partnership required.		World Trade Organization		World Customs Organization		Inter-American Development Bank	

KEY	Symbol			
	Definition	Yes. No significant limitations.	No. Information or functionality does not exist.	Limited in either scope or functionality.

**What it Provides: Critical Benefits of the Next Generation APEC Tariff Database**

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Beyond existing databases, through the APEC Tariff Database SMEs will:

- a. Quickly locate the non-preferential (MFN) rate for each APEC member economy;
- b. Easily find preferential tariff information in one central location for the more than 45 FTAs currently in place between and among APEC members as well as any other preference programs APEC economies may have in place.
- c. Navigate future tariff reductions via simple phase-out tables;
- d. Understand the criteria (rules of origin) to benefit from preferential tariffs;
- e. Link to certificates of origin or statements of origin that may be required;
- f. Determine if there is a quantitative restriction on imports of their product;
- g. Locate other related taxes and fees assessed on imports;
- h. Compare tariff rates based on country-pairings

Creating a current, transparent database of this information offers tremendous benefits for APEC members. The database would help companies in all economies to fully take advantage of the trade liberalization that is taking place in the region. SMMEs would benefit significantly from this initiative since greater transparency with respect to the “rules of the road” for trade in the region will help them to compete on a more level playing field with larger companies. While many MNCs have dedicated resources to locate the relevant tariff and other trade information they need to compete on a global scale, SMMEs often do not. An APEC-wide tariff database will remove the difficulty SMMEs have in searching for tariff information and preferences. APEC member governments also stand to gain from this initiative, not only because the initiative will help improve competitiveness of their private sector and boost economic growth, but also because it will also help fight corruption. A lack of transparent customs information creates an opportunity for corruption since only a select few officials control the terms of trade across borders. Making basic customs information available to all stakeholders in a transparent way lessens the opportunity for dishonest officials to take advantage of legitimate companies operating in the region.

**Current Status: Implement Public Private Partnership to Support Database and SME Access**

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The APEC Tariff Database concept has been tabled in the Market Access Group (MAG) in Moscow and Singapore this year. Government and industry consensus is that for the tool to be a viable resource for smaller firms, access to the database must be at no-cost for SMEs. Also, to attain broad participation by large private sector firms the tool must be available at a cost that provides significant savings over current approaches to acquiring and managing APEC trade information.

US APEC officials have recommended that in order to make the project accessible to SMMEs, it will be necessary to identify a public funding mechanism that will allow no-cost access. Based on initial research as to database scope and capabilities, an interactive tariff database that provides no-cost access for APEC SMMEs could likely be developed, implemented and maintained for approximately \$250,000 - \$350,000 USD per year. Increased transparency and availability of economies’ tariffs could reduce annual costs.

It has been proposed that funding be secured from multiple sources as appropriate, including the APEC Secretariat, APEC member economies, and international funding institutions such as the World Bank, Asia-Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank as well as national trade and development institutions.

**Recommendations: Building APEC Support for a Robust Tariff Database Solution**

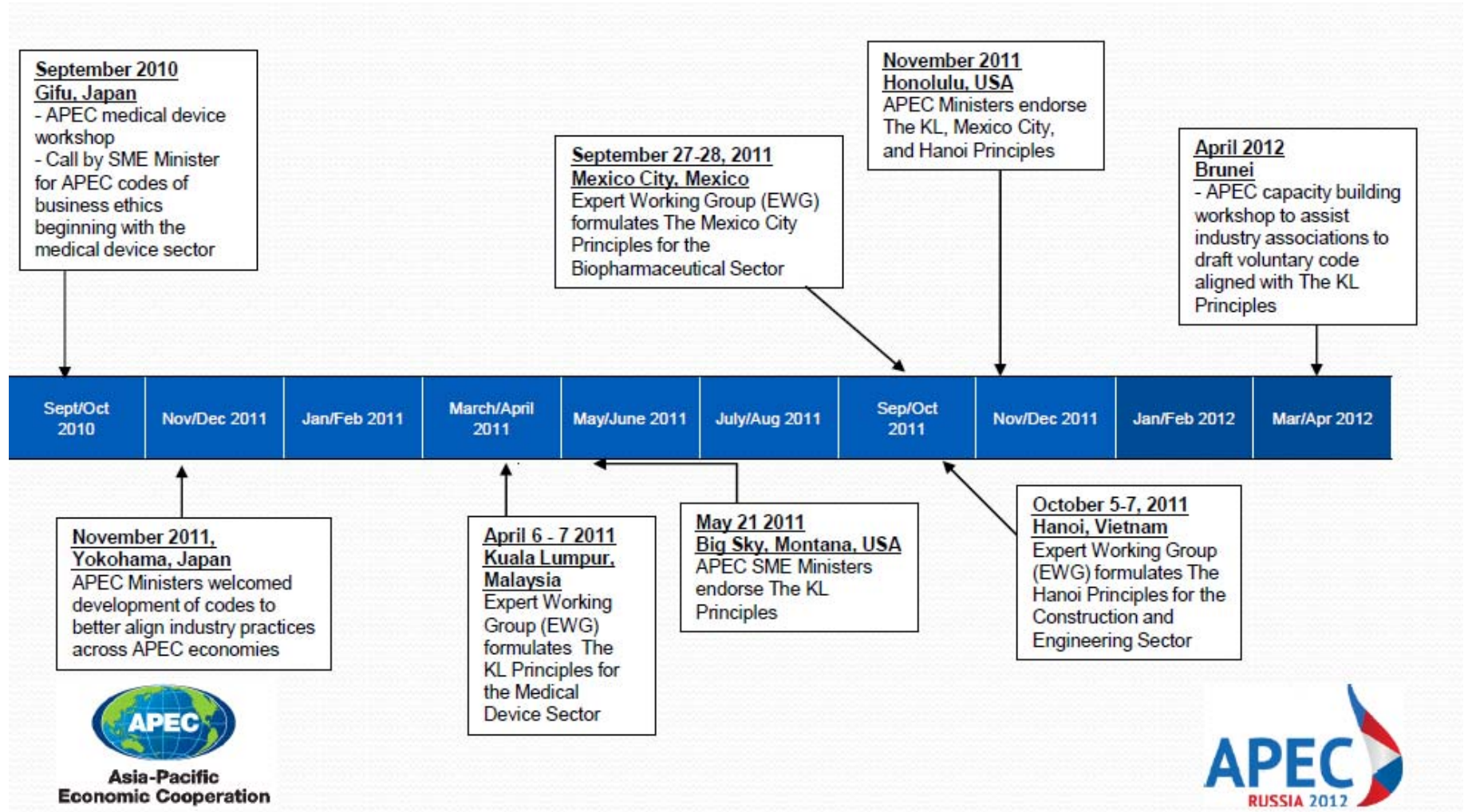
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- 1. ABAC should support the development of the Interactive APEC Tariff Database. ABAC should include specific reference to the development of an interactive tariff database in:
  - a. ABAC’s letter to SME Ministers (to be finalized at ABAC III).
- 2. ABAC Member economies should convey their support for the Database to their respective APEC Senior Officials.

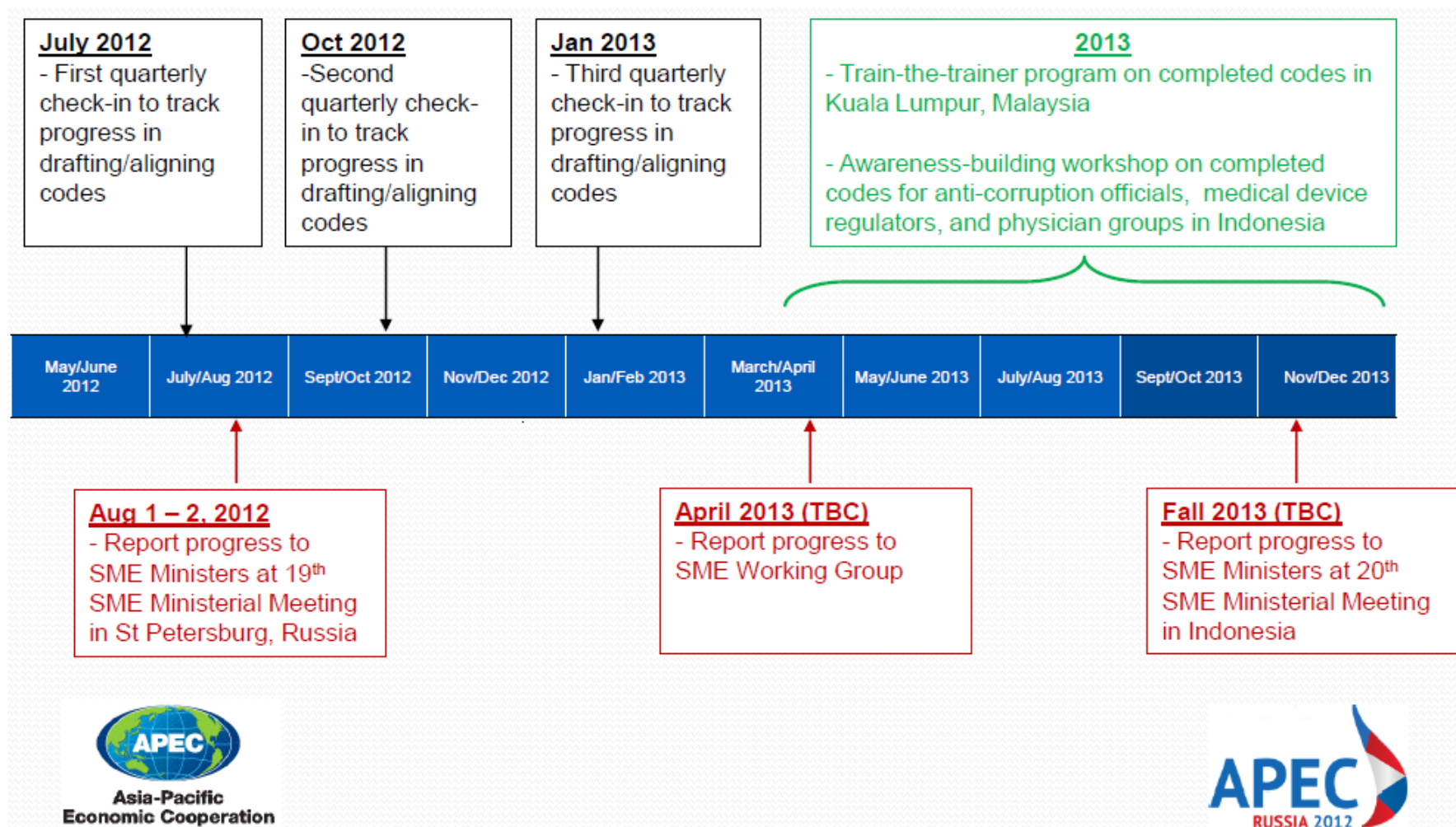


<p><b>Document Title:</b></p> <p>Business Ethics for APEC SMEs (UPDATE)</p>
<p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p>For information</p>
<p><b>Issue:</b></p> <p>Implementation of three sectoral codes of ethics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kuala Lumpur Principles for the Medical Device Sector</li> <li>• Hanoi Principles for the Construction and Engineering Industries</li> <li>• Mexico City Principles for the Biopharmaceuticals industry</li> </ul>
<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>The projects specifically target corruption in sectors where SMEs are vulnerable to requests for bribes and to help SMEs meet their ethics obligations under UNCAC and other anti-bribery conventions and agreements. All three principles were approved by SME Working Group, and endorsed by both Foreign and Trade Ministers at the APEC Leaders' Meeting held in Honolulu, Hawaii in November 2011. Ministers' endorsement then facilitated SMEWG endorsement of a Multi-Year Project proposal submitted by the United States to make the three sets of principles functional and operational for SMEs.</p> <p>The United States applied for Multi-Year Funding under the new APEC pilot program to "take the principles off of paper" and make them practical and operational for SMEs. Implementation of these principles will be achieved through a three step process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Technical assistance to help national associations write codes of ethics for their SME members using the voluntary principles as the foundation;</li> <li>2. A 2013 train-the-trainer workshop to geometrically increase the number of sector-based ethics trainers throughout APEC economies to help associations and SMEs comply with their voluntary code; and</li> <li>3. Workshops to raise awareness by the unique stakeholders in each sector who are critical to ensuring support for and compliance with the voluntary codes.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Proposal /Recommendations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABAC has been an active participant in the development of these principles, and will be asked to provide guidance and participation in the project. ABAC should continue to support the implementation of these principles.</li> <li>• ABAC should encourage economy participation in the upcoming workshop in St. Petersburg this August on the margins of the SMEWG meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Decision Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorse on-going support for the implementation project as detailed in this paper.</li> </ul>

## Progress to Date



## Upcoming Events



## Implementation Plan

Year 1 (2012) in Brunei: On the margins of the SMEWG meeting a code-writing workshop for the medical device sector would be held for industry associations and SMEs to help bring APEC developing economies, or those without existing codes of ethics, to a common platform for the 2013 train-the-trainer workshops. The code writing sessions would be executed using a twinning or mentor system, where an economy interested in establishing a code can receive drafting support from APEC economies that have extensive experience in developing practical, functional and effective codes of ethics. Note: Only six (6) APEC economies have existing codes of ethics for the medical device sector. Nearly 75% of companies in the medical device sector are SMEs struggling to understand and adopt the new ethics rules and regulations in the APEC region. Each economy requesting assistance will be asked to provide information on existing national legislation or other sector codes useful to the drafting process. Drafters will draw on the KL Principles for the Medical Device Sector as a building block. Drafters would be expected to report back to a public-private advisory group established for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating the institutionalization of the principles in medical device associations in each economy. This will inform the next phase of the project (capacity building training) as to the readiness of each economy to move forward to the train-the-trainer capacity building segment in 2013.

### UPDATE:

*In Brunei, the SMEWG assembled top flight mentors who worked with assigned economies to "crosswalk" the KL Principles for the Medical Device sector into a model national code. Each APEC economy will now draft a full ethics code using the KL Principles as the basic tenants. The mentors agreed to stay with their pairings until a code for each economy is completed.*

*During the Brunei workshop the mentors worked with each of their partner economies to discuss challenges or laws they might have that would prevent them from implementing the HIGH LEVEL model code. The goal is to fully harmonize a code of ethics for the medical device sector across ALL APEC economies so that the rules are easy to understand and consistent making it easier for SMEs to export across borders. Note: There are very few exceptions in national laws that would prevent full harmonization.*

Year 1 (2012) in Russia: In conjunction with the SME Ministerial in Russia, the United States will hold a similar code-writing workshop for the bio-pharmaceutical sector to establish an equal platform among all APEC economies in preparation for the extensive train-the trainer workshops in 2013. This code-writing workshop will bring the bio-pharmaceutical sector on par with medical devices. The United States anticipates having a set of voluntary set of principles for the biopharmaceutical sector fully established and endorsed by Senior Officials at the Leaders' Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii in November 2011 (16 economies are registered to participate). Similarly, a public-private advisory group will be established to monitor and evaluate the progress made in each economy to assess readiness for train-the-trainer capacity building in 2013.

Year 2 (2013) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: At the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Training Facility in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the United States will hold a train-the trainer program to greatly expand the number of ethics trainers APEC developing economies. This segment of the training is critical, as it will geometrically expand the number of skilled ethics trainers in the APEC region. Training candidates from each economy will be identified through a selection process to ensure high level outcomes. These training candidates from relevant industry associations will be given intensive training by global ethics professionals and industry relevant ethics experts to 1) establish a baseline understanding of the financial and social value of ethics compliance, 2) provide extensive ethics training relevant to the stakeholders in each designated sector, and 3) provide novice trainers with

the skill sets and tools to conduct training in their own economies. The local training will be supported by local or regional ethics experts if needed. Regional ethics compliance experts and trainers will provide on-going support and will track training progress through regularly established intervals. They will provide on-site training support if needed. The United States will provide the APEC Secretariat with a detailed report on the progress made in each economy, as well as the number of SMEs that have been trained. Note: The construction sector will be included in this training, however does not require the extensive code-writing preparatory work as the medical-based sectors. All 21 APEC economies are registered to participate in the APEC-funded construction ethics project in Hanoi, Vietnam in October 2011.

Year 2 (2013/Fall) Jakarta, Indonesia: As the medical device and bio-pharmaceutical sectors have similar stakeholders, the United States envisions holding an awareness workshop for healthcare professionals, regulators, anti-corruption authorities to help build support for the work undertaken by and for SMEs in these two sectors. This phase helps SMEs by connecting all the stakeholders required to support SMEs in their desire to conduct commercial activity in an ethical and responsible manner. Stakeholders within a particular industry can help bolster an ethical environment to help SMEs seamlessly and efficiently sell products across APEC economies.

Year 3 (2014/Fall) The Philippines: The construction sector has a unique set of stakeholders (large and small construction companies, engineers, construction management companies, anti-corruption or procurement ministries, etc) that will benefit from ethics awareness in support of SMEs. This workshop will bring together the relevant stakeholders to bolster an open and transparent business environment for sub-contractors and suppliers from small and medium-sized companies who are contracted by the large, global construction companies to complete infrastructure projects within the APEC region.

Year 4 (2014/Spring) Chile: **Note:** Funding for this final segment will come from outside sources. This additional segment will bring the ethics trainers to one location for the purposes of identifying training setbacks, identify training gaps, and to provide additional training to those interested in improving skills to increase their training capability. This is an opportunity to share training achievements, discuss training challenges, learn new skills from training colleagues and experts, and discuss revenue streams for sustaining in-country training programs. Advanced training will be provided by well-established global ethics compliance trainers who are committed to advancing ethical concepts in economies with SMEs as majority stakeholders. These experts will be joined by marketing and fundraising experts who have experience with creative and lucrative fund-raising programs in developing economies. Participation in this advanced workshop will be based on need and interest.

## Meeting Document Summary Sheet

<b>Document Title:</b>  Progress Report of 2012 APEC Young Entrepreneurs' Summit
<b>Purpose:</b>  For Information
<b>Issue:</b>  To Report the Progress of Young Entrepreneurs' Summit
<b>Background:</b>  <p>Hosted by APEC Business Advisory Council and APEC Business Advisory Council, it will be held in Beijing on June 5-6, 2012. Under the theme "Future Belongs to Us", it will feature distinguished leaders and potential youngsters from across the region with the aims of promoting communication among young entrepreneurs from various sectors in the Asia-Pacific region, including business figures, art leaders, as well as the representatives of public responsibilities, etc. The summit will serve as a platform for the exchange of diversified and innovative ideas from all sectors including business, art, culture and responsibilities with topics covering from investment, social responsibilities to innovation and culture. Co-organizers and partners are the top-ranking organizations in various sectors including the business organizations, art institutions as well as the commonwealth organizations, etc. Besides, this summit will be extensively broadcasted by dozens of mainstream media. The new highlight of the summit focuses on the NGOs, especially those small and medium sized ones. To be more specific, free exhibition area outside the meeting venue is provided to the attended NGOs exhibiting projects on environment protection, education, healthcare, volunteer and culture, which will give the media and public a brief introduction of their projects and arouse their attention and interest.</p> <p>The summit is planning to deliver a more creative perspective of entrepreneurship, to provide opportunities for sharing innovative thoughts, and to help build a young and memorable networking.</p>
<b>Proposal /Recommendations:</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Call for comments/suggestions for the upcoming Young Entrepreneurs' Summit in China</li></ul>
<b>Decision Points:</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Notice the information above.</li></ul>

Document: SMMEEWG 32-015

Draft: **FIRST**

Source: ABAC China

Date: 15 May 2012

Meeting: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### Meeting Document Summary Sheet

<b>Document Title:</b> Progress Report of APEC SME Summit Coordination Center
<b>Purpose:</b> For Information
<b>Issue:</b> To report on the progress of APEC SME Summit Coordination Center
<b>Background:</b>  With the great support of ABAC China Secretariat, recent progress at the APEC SME Summit Coordination Center includes:  <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.apecsmesummit.org">www.apecsmesummit.org</a> . The Center has continued to update the website to serve as a one-stop source of information on all APEC SME Summits and related events. We would like to call for more assistance in gathering information of previous SME Summits organized in other economies to complete the website.  <b>Events in China:</b> The Center plans to organize four events in China for the year 2012, APEC Young Entrepreneurs' Summit (June 5-6, Beijing) and APEC SME Summit. Attached please find the concept document of the APEC YES, which will strive to build a platform for young people from all areas of live to meet, discuss and learn from each other. Invitation to the event will be circulated to all ABAC members and staffers once ready. We would appreciate any comments/suggestions to the events above.
<b>Proposal/Recommendations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Call for more assistance in collecting information/data of previous SME summit organized by different ABAC Economies.</li><li>● Call for comments/suggestions for the upcoming Young Entrepreneurs' Summit and SME Summit in China</li></ul>
<b>Decision Points:</b> Notice the information above.